

THE FOUNDATION OF AMERICAN BUSINESS

Since the founding of America, Virginia has set the course for American business. The aspirations and fortitude of the founders of our great Commonwealth are evident today in the efforts of each of you – corporate leaders and small business owners alike. In recognition of your continuous work and dedication, Forbes magazine ranked Virginia as “The Best State for Business” in 2006.

*As we commemorate Business Appreciation Week, it is important to reflect on the challenges and successes of Virginia business. It is a time to say simply - **thank you**. Through your continued efforts and perseverance, we can keep Virginia moving forward.*

BUSINESS APPRECIATION WEEK MAY 13 - 19, 2007



Business Appreciation Week is proudly brought to you by the Virginia Department of Business Assistance and local partners. WWW.VDBA.VIRGINIA.GOV | 866.248.8814



AMERICAN BUSINESS “FIRSTS”

{2007}

VIRGINIA CELEBRATES 400 YEARS OF SUCCESSFUL COMMERCE

{2006}

VIRGINIA RANKED “BEST STATE FOR BUSINESS” BY *FORBES*

{1903}

FIRST WOMAN-OWNED BANK CREATED

{1893}

FIRST MINORITY-CHARTERED INSURANCE COMPANY ORGANIZED

{1888}

FIRST ELECTRIC TROLLEY SYSTEM ESTABLISHED

{1857}

FIRST CHAIN STITCH SEWING MACHINE PATENTED

{1842}

FIRST COMMERCIAL PEANUTS SOLD

{1619}

FIRST IRON MANUFACTURED

{1612}

FIRST COMMERCIAL TOBACCO HARVESTED

{1607}

VIRGINIA OPENS FOR BUSINESS
WITH INTERNATIONAL TRADE TRANSACTIONS